

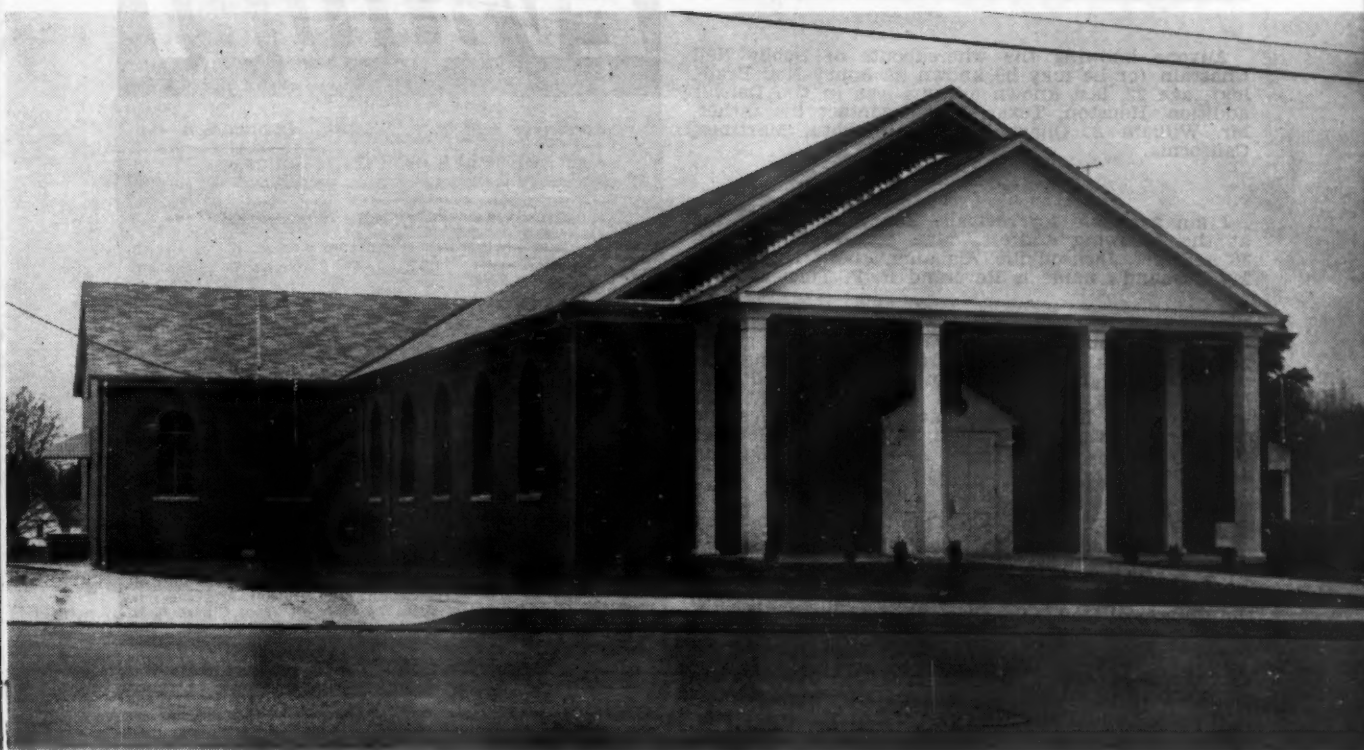
CHURCH OF GOD *Evangel*

Beginning
"Symbols of the Spirit"

Page 7

June 10, 1957

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.



Church of God in McMinnville, Tennessee

Three Aspects of the Pentecostal Religion

Page 5



BULLETIN BOARD

Notice

Anyone having friends or relatives stationed on Guam Island, please let us know. The Church of God is located on Marine Drive, East Agana. My address is Reverend Z. E. Cagle, Box 101, Agana, Guam.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Bobby Neil Chastain (or he may be known as Bobby Neil Bradley), age 22, last known address was in the Denver addition, Houston, Texas, please contact his father, Mr. William A. Chastain, 835 Alhambra, Martinez, California.

I am available for revivals. You may contact me at the following address: Mrs. Maggie M. Turner, 36 A Street, Jacksonville, Alabama, Phone HE 5-6189. My husband's name is Reverend R. P. Turner.

My house burned and destroyed our new guitar and music that we use in street services. I have a boy 14 and a girl 9 whose clothes were burned also. If anyone has a guitar that they don't need and would like to help us get back in full service for God, please write us at South Bay, Florida, General Delivery.
—Rev. Austin Skinner

COVER PICTURE

McMINNVILLE, Tenn.—On Sunday, April 28, 1957, the Church of God in McMinnville, Tennessee, opened its doors to welcome everyone to the dedicatory service.

The new building is modern in every way. The auditorium is 40 feet by 75 feet and furnished with factory-built pews and pulpit to match. The walls are white plaster and the windows are of colored glass, adding to the beauty of the auditorium. The floors are of hardwood, finished to blend with the furniture. There are 12 classrooms, 2 bathrooms, pastor's study, baptistry and space for a kitchen and 10 additional classrooms. The building is valued at \$100,000, but with so many donations and so much free labor from outsiders, as well as from our church members and good pastor, we are left with an indebtedness of only \$13,000.

The supervision of this building program was under the leadership of our pastor, Calvin Wigley. It took only 8 months to complete the building.

Every department of our church is encouraged and has a zeal to work for God.

I am sure that our pastor, Brother Wigley, will be rewarded for the many hard hours of labor he has spent on our beautiful building, as well as for the way he has worked for the progress of our church.

—Oleda Glenn, reporter

Vol. 48, No. 15

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CHURCH OF GOD Evangel

America's Oldest Pentecostal Publication

CHARLES W. CONN, Editor

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DECLARATION OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible. 2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor. 4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins. 5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. 6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost. 7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people. 8. In the baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart. 9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. 10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement. 12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet. 13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years. 14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

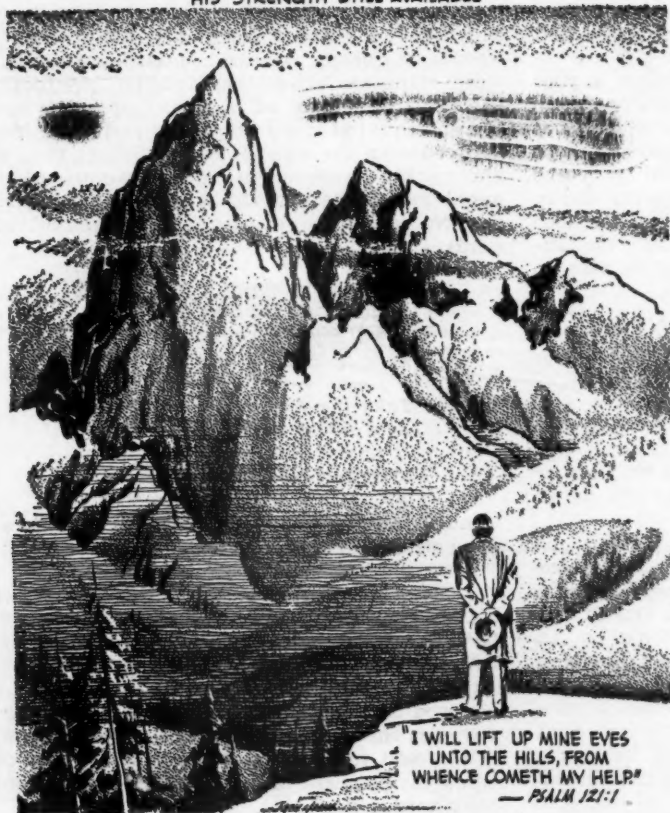
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HIS STRENGTH STILL AVAILABLE



THE NEEDED QUESTION

By

Mrs. F. W. Goff

Mt. Vernon, Illinois

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:30.

THE GREAT AND MOST important question that mankind everywhere needs to ask is not—What can I do to make headlines this year; to become world famous, or to become a millionaire? No, a thousand times no. It is nothing so trivial, so earth-confining as any of these things. It is the momentous question that deals with time and eternity, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

The setting of our Scripture text is in a Roman prison. Paul and Silas, having been moved upon by the Holy Ghost to go into Macedonia and proclaim the glad tidings of salvation through Jesus, obeyed explicitly and obtained passage on a ship sailing for Europe. Sailing a straight course they reached the island of Samothracia and anchored there for the night. From thence they sailed to Neapolis. The apostles did not linger in Neapolis but traveled on to Philippi, the chief city of that part of Macedonia, about ten miles away.

Here God marvelously rewarded their labors. Lydia, a gentle proselyte, opened her heart to the teachings of Christ and gladly welcomed the apostles into her

home. Here also was a damsel, a slave girl possessed with an evil spirit and used by her masters for mercenary motives. After being grieved for several days, Paul turned and said to the evil spirit, "I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out the same hour.

Angry because their source of gain was gone, her masters immediately laid hands on Paul and Silas and brought them to the magistrates. Without sufficient investigation, they were hastily condemned, illegally beaten and thrown into the inner prison. Here they were made fast in the stocks. How different these prisoners! Not groans, or curses, or complaints, but from the dungeon came the sound of praying. How true the words of Tertullian: "The limbs do not feel the stocks when the heart is in heaven."

Counting it all joy to suffer for Christ's sake they began to sing praises unto God. Heaven itself was moved and there came a mighty earthquake. Suddenly the prison was shaken, doors were opened and the bands not only of Paul and Silas but of all the prisoners were loosed. The jailer awakened from his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, drew out his sword and would have killed himself. But Paul cried with a loud voice saying, "Do thyself no harm; we are

all here." Realizing his peril the jailer immediately fell down before Paul and Silas and cried out, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Oh jailer, bless that day when the soul cried out its need!

Dear reader, are you subduing that same cry in your bosom? Have you been rushing to and fro, giving no heed to that inner voice? Think not, my friend, that the inner man can be satisfied by temporal things. That part of you that was created to live on yearns for its rightful master, for fellowship with the divine. Paul and Silas had the answer: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Gladly the jailer accepted the good news, for the Scripture says he rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

The answer is ever the same. Do not stumble at the very simplicity of the gospel. In Acts 4:12 it is written: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

GOD LOVES YOU, yea, even so much that He spared not His own Son but delivered Him up for us all; how shall He not with Him also give us all things?

Almost two millenniums have passed since the angel Gabriel was sent by God unto a city of Galilee, Nazareth, to a virgin named Mary, espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and made that glorious proclamation that God had chosen her to bear His Son. An angel also appeared to Joseph saying, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name **J E S U S**: for he shall save his people from their sins."

As it was God's plan then, so it is today, that only through His Son would mankind be saved from the awful sentence of sin. 1 John 5:11, 12, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

Yes, God gave His only Son, born in a lowly manger and reared in a humble carpenter's home. He walked on this earth as a man among men. He that had known the glories of heaven once said of Himself, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." Even in His most trying hours His friends forsook Him. His own denied and betrayed Him. Evil men laid hands on Him and condemned Him to death, even the death of the cross.

You who feel the burden of sin upon your soul and know the anguish of a great guilt that alone you can do nothing about, multiply that by the number of every person that has lived since the beginning of time and you will know a portion of the agony that Jesus suffered on the cross. The nails in His hands and feet, the sword piercing His side, the crown of thorns pressed upon His brow were all painful and our hearts bleed when we think on these things. But men have been crucified before. They have been burned at the stake, have suffered in countless different ways. But

never had there been or never again will there be another man like Jesus, who bore in His own body our sins, who took upon Himself the guilt of every man, woman, boy or girl, who in Himself knew no sin, who stood blameless before the Almighty, yet took upon Himself the sins of all mankind and suffered the punishment that was justly yours and mine. Yea, He suffered even the absence of the Father that we, in and by His name, might never have to suffer but might live in the glorious light of His presence forever. No wonder the songwriter penned those beautiful words:

*"Take the name of Jesus with you,
Child of sorrow and of woe;
It will joy and comfort give you,
Take it then where'er you go."*

*"Take the name of Jesus ever
As a shield from ev'ry snare;
If temptations round you gather,
Breathe that holy name in prayer."*

Paul writes in Philippians 2:9-11, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him (Jesus), and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

All this God hath done. Can you believe?

Do you believe in your heart that Jesus is the Son of God as the Scripture has said? Do you believe that He has paid your debt? Do you believe that God accepted the payment in full and for Christ's sake will freely pardon you?

Then confess to Him your sins, forsake the old paths, by faith reach up and take the great hand of God, for by grace are ye saved. Dear friend, you and you alone can make this decision. John 1:12, 13, "But as many as received him (Christ), to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." "Not of blood"—you will never be a Christian just because your parents were. They may have been ever so good, and, if so, made a great impression upon your life, but conversion is an individual thing. YOU must be born again. "Nor of the will of flesh"—it is not enough to "turn over a new leaf" or decide to do better. Neither can you do some great thing to atone for your sins. "Not by works of righteousness"—but according to His mercy He saved us. "Nor of the will of man"—no man has the power to forgive your sins. Only our heavenly Father, through the blood of His Son Jesus, can wash away your sins.

Delay no longer, accept Him now, for "if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."



THREE ASPECTS OF THE PENTECOSTAL RELIGION

By

F. J. May

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

THE GREATEST RELIGION that has ever been revealed to man, from the standpoint of the Bible, is the Pentecostal faith. There is no other religion which can compare with the effectiveness of Pentecost in bringing about and making known the divine will of God. Basically, every religion has these three components: a set of beliefs, emotional experiences accompanying those beliefs, and the conduct influenced by this faith and these experiences. It is in this light that I wish to approach the subject of the Pentecostal religion.

In the first place then, let us consider the beliefs of Pentecost. They are the fundamental Christian doctrines as are set forth in the New Testament, re-

vealed by Christ Jesus Himself and practiced by His Church. Pentecost today owes much to its fundamental predecessors who came through with enough gospel truth to start a revival of the "latter rain" at about the beginning of the twentieth century. Since then, thousands of persons throughout the world have seen the light and walked in it to the satisfying of the deepest longings of their souls.

Why others are willing to stop with just the foundation laid of this great spiritual building is a mystery. It seems that anyone who had really met Jesus our Saviour would want to continue the building until it was completely and perfectly finished. Some love the preaching of John the Baptist, and even claim

him as their preacher, but they have never thoroughly digested John's entire message. They are the kind of people who will say amen while John flogs the Pharisees and the hypocrites, demanding fruits to prove they have repented; but just let John get to preaching more than repentance and get to telling them, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire" and you will see these people scatter so quickly that they cannot remember a thing John did but baptize in water.

Paul found a group of John's disciples in Ephesus who knew only the baptism of John, and he asked them a question that every man in the world should have to answer: "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" After explaining to them that John merely baptized with water for repentance, and that John had served as the forerunner of Jesus Christ, Paul instructed them further in the way of Pentecost. Then he laid his hands on them, and the Holy Ghost came upon them, and they spake with tongues and prophesied.

In these latter days, it is of absolute necessity that we know our beliefs, and know that they are based entirely on the teachings of the New Testament. Some people have made it their business to study God's Word in order to build "upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ, Himself, being the chief corner stone." Such was the business of the scribes in the time of Christ—to read the Scripture and interpret its meaning to the people. Of course those scribes grew corrupt in their interpretations, and Jesus had to transfer their job over to His disciples when He said, "Every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old." Some people emphasize this aspect of their religion more than anything else, realizing that Jesus said, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures." However, we cannot stop at only emphasizing a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. We must go on to the emotional experiences accompanying our beliefs, knowing that in the same statement Jesus said, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures or the power of God."

Pentecost believes in a religion of the heart as well as the mind. It emphasizes the blessed experiences of forgiveness of sins, cleansing by the precious blood of the Lamb and the infilling of the believer with the supernatural power of the third Person of the Godhead—the Holy Ghost. This breaks the power of Satan, frees the believer from bondage and empowers him to witness for Jesus Christ.

THIS BRINGS US to the third aspect of Pentecost. The main purpose of the baptism with the Holy Ghost is to make known to the believer, Christ his Saviour and help him go forth in the world bearing the fruits of a Christlike life. As mentioned before, some stress "knowing the Scriptures"; some emphasize "knowing the power"; while others emphasize "knowing the fruits."

There should be no criticism of any individual if he stresses any one of these points, but there are much more satisfactory results in the long run, if one can be well-balanced with all three. To exemplify this point, let us take a look at the church at Corinth. In Paul's first letter to them, he was somewhat disturbed because there was a three-way division among them about preachers. They had heard Paul, Apollos and Cephas, and some had preferred one or another of the three.

Apollos is described in Acts as a great Bible scholar and teacher, very eloquent, but a little bit dry because he knew only the baptism of John. However, when the Pentecostals, Aquila and Priscilla, expounded to him the way more clearly, he really got on fire, "for he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was the Christ."

On the other hand, Cephas, from headquarters at Jerusalem, was a little more on the emotional side. He was the evangelistic type, used to swaying great congregations with his dynamic preaching, as on the Day of Pentecost. He depended on the moving of the Spirit while he preached, as at the house of Cornelius when the Holy Ghost fell.

Paul was a combination of both the others and more, too. He was mighty in the Scriptures and mighty in power, but he stressed the fruits of the Spirit with the greatest emphasis. One has only to read 1 Corinthians 13 to see what Paul thought about the fruit of the Spirit. He declares in Galatians 5 that "the fruit of the Spirit is love . . ."

Thus, we see why the Corinthian church had its schisms. Some liked a teaching ministry; others liked an evangelistic ministry; while others liked the pastoral type. It was then that Paul explained to them that one planted, another watered, another cultivated, etc., but it was God who gave the increase. He summed it up by saying, "Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours, and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's." Evidently, they did not realize that God ". . . gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ . . ."

"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment."

Yes, "and this will we do, if God permit." We will go on to perfection, being enlightened, tasting of the heavenly gift, being made partakers of the Holy Ghost, tasting the Word of God and the power of the world to come, praying always that we shall not fall away, thus crucifying the Son of God afresh and putting Him to an open shame.

First in a Series of Sermons Entitled:

Symbols of the Spirit

— Wind —

By Joe Southerland

Youth Director of Arkansas

WIND IS AN INVISIBLE force producing visible results. So is the Spirit of God. We see the calm of the ocean as it is rippled into multiplied thousands of chopping, foaming waves, the silent and foreboding oak tree suddenly shaken as if it were attached to a supercolossal vibrator; yet we see no mechanical device bringing about these things. We see only the results of a great moving.

It is the same with the Spirit of God. We see a man whose life is suddenly reversed, his energies re-routed, his former ambitions uprooted, and observe that he is moved in a great way but we never see the great Spirit of God that moves him. The Spirit is like the wind. In fact, the Greek and Hebrew words for the two are the same. Wind is described as breath, and the Spirit as the Wind or Breath of God. Both are mysterious.

Jesus, when speaking of the wind, said, "Thou canst not tell whence it cometh nor whither it goeth." The wind then is not under the control of any man. Man can talk about how he wants the wind to blow; he can try with his cunning to decipher the course of it, but he cannot control how or when it blows, where it goes, or from where it comes. Can any man control the Spirit of God? No! God's plan does not call for a man-controlled Spirit but on the contrary for Spirit-controlled men. The most definite thing we can say about the wind is that it is blowing and to take advantage of it we must be able to recognize this.

With the Spirit of God, although we cannot explain the depth and mystery of its source or the height and mysterious glory of its end, we must always recognize His presence and seek to take full advantage of His being in our midst. He gives no warning and again like the wind waits for no man or group of men to make a set of rules before He comes. There may be calm one moment and in the next be the wit-

nessing of a divine tempest blowing over the souls of men. As the wind comes suddenly, the Spirit also does to awaken and affect us. You may sit under a tree and take notice that there is not enough breeze stirring to tremble the most delicate limbs. Yet in a moment's time you will be aware of the noise of movement in part of the same tree, and in another short time the entire green-coated beauty of God's creation is shaken to its roots. Sometimes as we wait, and only as we wait before God in perfect tranquillity do we feel a slight movement; then in an instant our soul is shaken to its foundations by the mighty power of the Spirit of God awakening us and making us more alert to the cause of Christ.

Wind produces power or, we might better say, is power. God is often seen moving in the form of wind; whether speaking to Job from a whirlwind, moving in a mulberry bush, splitting the Red Sea, or by giving an inside windstorm as He did on the Day of Pentecost, there is always movement and power connected. As the wind turns the mill bringing powerful benefits to mankind, so does the Spirit of God move upon men with effects that are felt throughout the world. *There is no such thing as a still wind.*

Consequently, there is no still manifestation of the Spirit of God. Every allusion to Him is in the moving classification. Wind has the power to comfort or to blow into a typhoon, to cool the fevered brow or to blow away anything obstructing its free course. In its power it is the symbol of freedom; it is mighty, irresistible; nothing can stand in its way. The same motion of the same atmosphere, whether soothing or storming, will have its freedom or do no work. The Spirit as wind is freedom along with power, for the Scriptures say, "Whom the spirit maketh free is free indeed." The poets call the winds "chartered liberties" and the saying "free as air" has become a prov-

erb. These aptly describe the free-flowing wonder-working power of the Spirit. The wind comes with sound as it did on the Day of Pentecost, but the sound is not always the thing that counts. Some persons want to shake the limbs and rattle the leaves so much that they miss the sweet voice of the Spirit when He speaks in a comfort-kissing zephyr.

The wind may move in one place and not in another. Some boats win races because the wind blows more their way. Man fashions a boat from the World-maker's creations. He nails boards together, pitches them, and strips them with aluminum; he fits this device with a mast and sails and then launches it upon a lake that is only a drop in the bucket of the Master's handiwork. The mechanics are there, perfection in boat building is obvious; yet this sleek craft does not move until the invisible wind fills and flings out its sails to capacity. Men fill their minds with the wisdom of humanity, and with mechanics devised by mere specks of clay we fashion a craft that is guaranteed to navigate and conquer the streams of life and time; yet we are nothing, can do nothing, say, see or be nothing until the mighty wind of God, His Holy Spirit, fills our void lives to capacity with His pulsating propulsion of power. The variety in the operations and might of the agent is seen in this symbol.

Wind in its own way is a life-giver and certainly so is the Spirit, for "it is the Spirit that quickeneth." The breath of life is symbolized in the great vision of Ezekiel, the prophet. He was told to prophesy and the ministering of the word brought the working of the Spirit. The wind moved, or to be more correct, the four winds moved. Though thin and certainly having no body, they produced in the valley of dry bones results that were astounding. The life-giving Spirit brought flesh back to the pieces of bleaching calcium. Does not the Spirit of God do exactly the same today? Some say that they have life when they have it not. If there is to be life, then it must be related to the life that is supposed to be its source. "For as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Anyone or any organization that does not have the Spirit is dead. But, praises to God who with the powerful wind of His Spirit comes vehemently into the graveyard of prodigals, anoints someone to bring His Word and then blows a breeze on the bleaching bones of unbelievers and resurrects them into a great and glorious segment of His mighty Church.

We need this kind of windstorm the world over today where millions are bleaching in the ideals of idolatry, pledges of paganism, modes of modernism, fieriness of fanaticism and utopias of undone deeds. One sweep of the mighty wind of God certainly can turn such a mass of putrefaction into a melody of life, setting straight the things that Satan has turned awry and restoring man again to the full and righteous inheritance that is his.

The wind on Pentecost came as the answer to the cry of the 120 saints gathered there. If the power that was manifest in the form of spiritual wind had been channeled into the natural wind and concentrated on

the same building, it would have demolished it, torn away the roof, and resulted in an upheaval. Yet when coming in the form of spiritual power it did not tear down anything save the strongholds of Satan. It blew into the hearts of the 120 and started building up instead of leveling off.

After ten days of praying and consecrating which had taken them from the bottom rock of humility up to the places where the seraphic rolls of glory hang, they are waiting. The eagle-pinioned bird of hope has made her flight toward the celestial storehouse of the stars. Then a sound is heard. It is not the sound of an anemic governor wringing his hands crying, "His blood is not upon me." Neither is it the sound of a whiplash on the Saviour's back; it is not the sound of Roman sandals plodding their way up steep and dusty paths to a bloody Golgotha. The sound is not the blood gushing from the side of the lowly Nazarene or the quibbling of a group of adolescent-sounding disciples or fear-injected followers crying, "Is it I?" This is the sound of a cyclone, a roaring, twisting, whistling, rumbling wind not from the east, west, north or south, but directly from heaven, bringing on the tide of its billows the descendant conflagration of Holy Ghost power. From the Upper Room this wind has blown and is blowing to fill the entire world.

This power was ever present after Pentecost, working through weak vehicles and waxed so full and forcible that it cast down strongholds, uprooted cities, opened prisons, captivated many thoughts, and made a conquest of the world that was bent in opposition against it. You cannot stop the wind and even more so, you cannot stop the Spirit of God. He touches whom He will with this power. As the gift of genius may come to the son of a shepherd as well as to the son of a millionaire, so does the Spirit of God work. It operates above and beyond all limits of culture and position. It falls upon a tinker from Bedford and he writes *The Pilgrim's Progress*. It falls upon a priest doing penance in Rome and he defies the entire world with one Scripture. It falls upon a shoe clerk in Boston and sets two continents aflame. It falls upon each and every man, woman, boy, and girl who gets in the right channel and it fans a mere spark of hope into a multimillion-volt-producing dynamo of power.

There is something beyond my description about the rushing of a divine, heaven-born tempest that will bow the soul before the mystery of sublime power. We need more men today who are impelled by this force. This wind, the Spirit of God, that is mysterious in its coming, powerful in its shaking, cleansing in its blowing, and soft in its refreshing is what we need more than anything else today. An organ works as a pedal is pumped which in turn pumps the bellows. The bellows then blow the reeds. If we will prime the pumps of promise by faith and cry unto God, then His Spirit will blow the reeds of earthly organs and produce the sweetest music this side of heaven.

My prayer is "God, give us a heavenly hurricane of happy, heartening, helping, Holy Ghost power. Breath Thy Spirit on us today."



revivals

Revival Blesses Church

PEKIN, Ind. — We have just closed a revival at the Pekin Church of God. The Reverend "Junior" Kash, of Charlestown, Indiana, was the evangelist. Two were saved, and the church was blessed. Some received healing for their bodies. Brother Kash is a wonderful man of God. Pray for us and for more souls to be saved in our next revival which will be in progress soon.

—Clark Napier, pastor

Good Attendance and Results

WILSON, N. C. — The Church of God in Wilson has just closed a wonderful revival with the Reverend George Voorhis of Erwin, North Carolina, as the evangelist. The Lord blessed night after night, and the altar was filled with people seeking the Lord. Fifteen were saved, 13 sanctified, 6 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 16 united with the Church. This revival was the best attended we have ever had. Brother Voorhis is very sincere and takes the work of the Lord at heart, and he is very cooperative. Any church will be blessed by his messages. —W. P. Pope, Jr., pastor

Fasting and Prayer Brings Revival

KIRKWOOD, Mo. — The fasting and praying of the Kirkwood people have brought them into a unity of mind and spirit which exploded into a three weeks' revival series in which God poured out His blessings in torrents of glory. The results—a genuine Pentecostal revival which has given new zeal, new courage, and a greater determination to the hearts of its recipients to be better workers for Jesus Christ. Thirteen were saved, 3 sanctified, and 3 baptized with the Holy Ghost. Marvelous healings were accomplished through Jesus Christ. God moved in a glorious way through every service and every department of the church. The

Sunday School boosted its record from 89 to 91. The young people and the Ladies' Willing Workers' Band have been filled with a new desire and willingness to work for God. The fervency of God's Spirit is at its highest ebb. Many have testified that the revival has been the best that they have attended since the days of the "old-fashioned brush arbor and the iron-tired wagon." The music and good singing were superb. Sister Jewell Long, a member of the local church, did such a splendid job of preaching with the anointing of the Holy Ghost that we were all moved into a hand-in-hand fellowship with God.

—Rev. Walter L. O'Neal, pastor

Seventy-one Converted in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — It was with much expectation that we at the Grand Avenue Church of God in St. Louis, Missouri looked forward to our April revival. Our people were praying and fasting that God would give us a good revival. The Reverend J. David Pitts of Greensboro, North Carolina was anointed of God nightly to minister to the fine crowds who attended.

During the time of our revival we were also engaged in the National Y.P.E. Contest. The third week of the contest found us in the first week of our revival. One of the great thrills of the first week was to see 89 young people come forward when the altar call was given. In one night 45 professed the Lord to be their Saviour. One of the crowning events of the second week was the final efforts of the Y.P.E. contest. We were thrilled to have 334 in attendance on our Y.P.E. night. Again the altar was filled with seekers.

Some were moved by conviction during the morning service on Sunday. Three people prayed fervently for God to save them. A number of persons were earnestly seeking God with a desire for re-consecrating their lives to God.

If no mistake was made, at least 71 professed Jesus as their Saviour.

Many were sanctified. A number who had not had the witnessing of the Holy Ghost in years jubilantly expressed their joy in a revival of their vows to God and a refilling of the Holy Ghost.

A number of persons expressed with joy that they had been marvelously touched by God for healing of some long-standing ailments.

Brother Pitts is a man of God who believes in the leading of the Spirit. He is a man of prayer. We feel that we have been favored at Grand Avenue and were fortunate to be able to secure Brother Pitts as our evangelist.

—Wayne Heil, pastor

Forty-four Unite With Church After Outstanding Revival

THOMASTON, Ga. — The Thomaston Church of God has just closed the most successful revival it has experienced in many years. The evangelist was the Reverend Roy Burroughs of Anderson, South Carolina. He is a fine young man with a great burden for souls. In his preaching he surely does call sin by name and preaches under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Fifty-two were saved, 24 sanctified, 29 filled with the Holy Ghost, 28 baptized in water, and 44 added to the Church. The interest was great and the church was almost filled each night. The Lord really blessed our young people. We have a large group of young people now on fire for the Lord. It was wonderful to see them, as well as older ones, praying and working around the altar. We are on the upward move in every department of the church and we are expecting great things from God with the help and leadership of our good pastor, the Reverend J. L. McCoy, and family.—Mrs. Alice Page, reporter

Church Reports General Progress

GRANITE FALLS, N. C. — We have just closed a revival at Granite Falls, North Carolina with Brother and Sister Wroten Dunn as evangelists. Brother Dunn's messages and their singing were a great blessing to the church here. We are thanking the Lord for the way He is blessing the church under the leadership of Brother D. A. Hensley, our pastor, and Sister Hensley. The church is growing in every department. We won the Sunday School, Y.P.E., and L.W.W.B. banners at our last district fellowship meeting. There has been an increase of 30 in church membership since Brother Hensley came

here less than a year ago. Also the L.W.W.B. has covered the floors, covered the furniture, and bought a deep freeze for the parsonage. Our Sunday School is steadily growing in number and interest. One of the brothers has furnished tables for the small children's class. We are giving God the glory for everything that has been accomplished and pray that His blessings will continue with us.

—Aileen Fox, reporter

Evangelist Appeals to Youth

CANTON, Ga. — We are happy to report that we have recently had a one-week youth revival at the Canton Church of God. Brother W. P. Rambert of McKaysville, Georgia was the evangelist. He did a wonderful job preaching to the youth. We feel that he did a lot of good for the entire church as 6 were saved, 1 filled with the Holy Ghost and 4 united with the Church. We are thankful for the blessings of God and for our pastor, Brother Edward E. Shoupe, and his family. They are doing a marvelous job, not only for our church but also for our town and community. We request the prayers of all who read this to pray that we may continue to be a blessing here in Canton.

—Sue Phillips, Y.P.E. secretary-treasurer

Nineteen Converted in Brunswick

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — We thank God for a most wonderful revival with Brother and Sister Casey Monsees as the evangelists. We can earnestly say any church will be fortunate to have this most consecrated couple. The great presence of God prevailed in every service and every message was delivered under the anointing. Sister Monsees was an inspiration with her continual silent prayers. Nineteen were saved, 9 sanctified, 1 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 10 united with the Church. Many were healed of long-standing diseases. The entire church has been stirred and reconsecrated. We are looking forward to being in our new church soon. God is doing great things here in Brunswick.

—Rev. C. W. Clayton, pastor

Pastor Conducts Successful Revival

BARNABUS, W. Va. — We have just closed a revival at the Barnabus, West Virginia, Church of God with our beloved pastor, Brother Robert H. Prichard, as the evangelist.

list. His sermons were directed to the youth. Twenty-three were saved, 11 sanctified, 2 baptized with the Holy Ghost and 7 baptized in water. I am sure God puts His approval on the work of our pastor and we certainly do appreciate him in every way. Pray for us that we may ever do the will of the Master.

—Mark Curtis, clerk

Fifty Converted in Shelburn

SHELburn, Ind. — We began our revival with Brother Lester Knox from Adel, Georgia as the evangelist and continued until Easter Sunday night. The power of God was present from the very first night to save and to heal. Fifty were saved, 20 sanctified, and 20 filled with the Holy Ghost. Many others may have received the blessing as the altar was full every night. We baptized 19 in water and received 17 new members into the Church. We had a number of outstanding healings as Brother Knox prayed for the sick. We can certainly recommend this man of God to any pastor who likes old-time preaching and the power of God in his church. Our church has been revived and we are shouting the victory. Pray for our church in Shelburn.

—William Simpson, pastor

Church Has Its "Greatest Revival"

MORRISTOWN, Tenn. — The Church of God in Morristown has just closed the greatest revival in the history of the church. Brother T. L. Phillips preached the first four nights and then Brother C. M. Newman was with us the remainder of the revival. There was a mighty outpouring of God's Spirit in every service. Seventeen were saved, 18 sanctified, 16 filled with the Holy Ghost and 11 added to the Church. Brother Phillips and Brother Newman did some wonderful preaching during this re-

COMING NEXT WEEK

What is the ministry of a country church? What are its problems, its prospects, and its purpose? Don't miss "Portrait of a Rural Church" in next week's EVANGEL. A pictorial feature of a typical country congregation. This remarkable report will bless and inspire you.

vival and the whole church was greatly blessed. The revival spirit still continues with the church, and we are having great services.

—Dora Mae Arwood, reporter

Young People Give Lives to God

LAKE WALES, Fla. — We have recently closed a revival in which Sister Io Garlit was the evangelist. The Lord graced each service with His hallowed presence. Ten were saved, 5 filled with the baptism of the Holy Ghost, 7 received into the Church, and 6 baptized in water. Among those saved were several young people. How refreshing it was to see those teen-age girls and boys kneel at an altar of prayer and dedicate their lives to God in reverence and gratitude. Truly if we are constant in seeking God's face, He will grant us our youth in this day of world-wide confusion.

We are thankful that Sister Garlit came our way in her travels through the vineyard of our Lord. Also, we are grateful to be blessed with a pastor such as Brother Leon Thomas. He and Sister Thomas have captured our hearts through their willingness to do the will of God. May our heavenly Father continue to overshadow us with His love, as we work in His harvest.

—Mozelle Albritton, reporter

Revival Spirit Continues After Meeting Closes

COFFEY SPRINGS, Ala. — We have just closed a two weeks' revival at the Bradshaw Church of God with Sister Lillian Blansit doing the preaching. The Lord really blessed and the Holy Ghost worked in a different way each night. Sixteen were saved and 5 filled with the Holy Ghost. The church was blessed and each member was drawn closer to God. The revival spirit is still here and we are praying that God will continue to bless and more souls will be saved. Brother and Sister Blansit are wonderful workers for God. They put all they have into the service, and I do appreciate people like that. Pray for us at Bradshaw.

—Carolyn Sasser, secretary

Good Revival Reported

COBBTOWN, Ga. — A revival was recently conducted at the Hillside Church of God with the Reverend Hilda Hulett as the evangelist. Five were saved, and 3 united with the Church. Brother Hulett is a fine evangelist and was a blessing to our church.

—E. W. Ashmore, pastor

God Brings Lady Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death

PALATKA, Fla. — I have a great testimony of healing to report, but first I want to make apologies and ask forgiveness for being so late in giving this great report of how wonderfully God came on the scene and healed me. It was at our district convention last night that I felt that I ought to write my testimony of healing. Brother Pratt, pastor of the Lake Weir church in Lakeland, Florida, was having charge of the service as our state overseer, Brother A. M. Phillips, was ill and could not be with us. Brother Pratt urged me to send in this testimony as it would certainly help someone to have greater faith in their hour of need.

It was 2½ years ago that I was touched by the Lord. I had suffered for quite a long time at different intervals for years. I knew I was weak spiritually and could not have the faith I needed to receive my healing. In August in 1954 I went to Valdosta, Georgia, for X rays to see what could be the cause of my suffering. My normal weight was around 130 pounds, but at this time I weighed only 89 pounds. I am a tall person of 5 feet 6 inches. I was told that I had a huge obstruction in my stomach. I could no longer keep what I ate and suffered abdominal pains and gas pains continually. Dr. Owens of the Valdosta hospital did the operating. I thought that I had ulcers, which I did, but my stomach had healed, leaving a tremendous scar. They found that my gall bladder was filled to capacity with stones and some had backed up into my intestinal tract.

My operation was a success but I had complications. The chemicals of my body were not performing or functioning correctly and I went into convulsions. My fever rose and finally one night I passed away for a short 1½ minutes, while the nurse was taking a history of my family, apparently an obituary. My pulse faded on my right arm and the nurse went around the bed to take my other pulse; it was gone, too, so she left the room in great haste. She had previously asked my husband to leave, but he refused to leave me in this condition.

As soon as the nurse left the room he hurried to the side of the bed and began to call on God. He had always believed God would bring me back in spite of the anxiety of nurses and doctors. After a moment I breathed again. After that I had hemorrhage of the brain and the doctors declared that I would be an invalid and insane the rest of my life. One day while my husband was standing by my side my memory came back to me. The doctors were



healing

amazed and thankful. I had to learn to walk again. I was in the hospital nearly a month but didn't realize where I was but about a week of it. I now weigh about 180 pounds; I am in good health, and six months ago I gave birth to a precious, beautiful baby girl who is the life of our home. My husband has as great faith as anyone on this earth, I guess. He has trusted the Lord with his body for 28 years. While I was in this unconscious state the Holy Ghost witnessed through me to one of the special night nurses who was a Catholic. She inquired of my husband if I knew the Latin language. He explained about the Holy Ghost to her. She had never been to a Protestant church in her life.

Aren't we serving a wonderful God and isn't He good to His children? We are prone to take too much for granted. Again I ask your forgiveness in being so tardy with this report of such a great miracle. I took a trip to heaven in my unconscious state. You could not ever begin to realize the love, the wonderfulness of it all.

We are in a great revival at Palatka, Florida, where we pastor, with Brother Jerry Blow, missionary of B. W. I. as the evangelist. Thirty-four have been filled with the Holy Ghost, 25 baptized in water and 25 united with the Church. We are going into the ninth week of the revival. Rejoice with us. It pays to fast and pray.

—Mrs. Earl Deas

testimony was given by his grandmother, Sister Margaret Dow, who is a member of the West Durham Church of God. As pastor of the church in Durham, I know that this was a great healing that took place in this precious child.

—H. L. Helms, pastor

Minister Healed of Tuberculosis and Pneumonia

BULAWAYO, Southern Rhodesia —While I was praying one evening, I prayed these words, "Lord, break up this old life of mine and make me a new and better man in Jesus."

To my amazement, God answered that prayer just as I prayed, for just three months later I became violently ill. This illness necessitated a medical examination, in which it was discovered that I had tuberculosis (consumption). I was taken immediately to the hospital, and the doctors tried right away to collapse my left lung by pneumothorax. This operation in itself failed, and I was then told it would be necessary to operate on my lung by surgical methods, to which I gave my consent.

This operation also failed to have the desired effect. A second operation was then tried, which also failed. A third and a fourth were tried, but all to no avail. Oh, how I suffered untold agony. The pain and agony I suffered during that time can never be told or understood. It was during that time that I was drawn closer to my Saviour's side. I could always hear His sweet voice whispering words of peace and comfort to me. After eight months of intense suffering my body had wasted away to skin and bone. While in this condition, I became violently and dangerously ill one Sunday afternoon. A medical examination revealed that I had now contracted pneumonia and fluid on my lung. My right lung by this time was also badly affected with tuberculosis. My condition grew steadily worse until Tuesday; then I said to my dear wife, "If God doesn't step in today, then I am going to be with my Lord tonight." I was sinking

Child Healed of Eczema

DURHAM, N. C.—In January of 1957 at the Durham District Fellowship meeting which convened at the Raleigh Church of God, God touched and healed little Robert Davis of eczema. He was born with it and lived most of the two years in the hospital before God healed him. But, thank God, his mother and dad say he is well and normal like other children. He can wear clothes now and he could not before. They are taking him to church with other children. They are living in Oklahoma now. This

fast. At six o'clock that evening, Pastor Cooper of Durban was with me, whispering words of cheer and comfort to me. His very presence seemed life and hope. After praying again, Pastor Cooper promised me he would call an immediate prayer meeting, and they would pray that the Lord would spare me and heal me.

At half past nine that evening, Jesus touched me. I felt the warmth of His breath and life pass into my broken body, and then I experienced that peace that passeth all understanding.

The miraculous had been done. God had healed me, and today, 16 years later, I can still testify of His saving grace and healing power.

The best friend to have is Jesus.
—Charles E. Jennings

Able to Work Again After Healing

IMMOKALEE, Fla.—I want to sound a note of praise through the *Evangel* for God's wonderful healing power. I had been sick for about a year and was not able to do my housework part of the time. The doctor said I had heart trouble. I kept getting worse until Brother Jackie Davis came here and held a revival. The Lord wonderfully touched my body one night in a healing service and I have been getting better ever since. I have gained back my weight and do all my work. Jesus is a great friend to have at all times. I am looking for Him to come back one of these days to take His children home.

—Mrs. Lula Lanier

Numbness Leaves Body After Prayer

ROCHELLE, Ill.—Just a note of praise to my Redeemer for His mighty healing power. About two weeks ago I awoke one morning feeling dizzy, and when I got on my feet I felt that I was going to fall. I started to lie down on the bed, and my left hand gave away and I fell to the floor. I finally got in bed and my whole left side became numb. It had no feeling. I could still move it, but it was numb, as was the skin of my head, my shoulder, hip and leg down to my toes. I thought it was a stroke. Brother Willingham wanted to send for the children but I told him to pray. I knew they would want a doctor or want to send me to the hospital, so I said just pray. We began to pray and in just a few minutes God came on the scene and touched my body, and the numbness left me. I said, "Now

you can call the girls and tell them about it and they can pray and go on to work." Oh, God has been so good to me. I can never praise Him for the good things He has done for me. I want always to live so that when I call upon Him He will answer my prayers. Lately I have had several attacks with my stomach. They are so severe that I can hardly stand it, but I know God is still on the throne and I desire the prayers of all my brothers, sisters, and friends that God will completely heal my body, for I do want to trust Him until He says it is enough, come up higher. Praise His name. I want to meet Him in peace.

—Mrs. A. R. Willingham

I Touched the Hem of His Garment . . ."

LACOCHEE, Fla. — Trusting God for the healing of our bodies is a wonderful privilege that many Christians fail to accept. In the many years I have served the Lord He has healed me many times and it has been the means of drawing my heart closer to Him. Many persons trust the Lord and take medicine too, but in that way God does not get the complete glory. There is just a difference in the way we feel when we fully trust the Lord. It increases our faith and confidence in God. About two years ago I had a terrible time with my tonsils. Poison from them had gone all over my body causing me to have arthritis and suffer much pain. When I sang in the choir I suffered. The church here had prayed earnestly but there was seemingly no victory. My friends suggested that I have my tonsils removed, but God had been so good to me that I felt I would really let Him down if I did not stand the test. One day I came home from work and my heart was very heavy. I had just about decided to have my tonsils removed. I fell on my face before God and poured out my heart to Him, reminding Him of the many blessings He had let come my way and the many times He had healed my body. It was raining outside and presently it began to rain inside—healing for my body! I touched the hem of His garment and God spoke to me and said, "Things will be different from now on," and they have been. The devil told me that I would never be able to sing again, but the God that is within us is greater than he that is in the world. I have been singing ever since and only a few times have I had any trouble at all with my throat. God is a wonderful God. Let us trust Him more.

—Miss Goldie Gatlin

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By Rev. Earl P. Paulk

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2 Cor. 4:16, "*But though our outward man perish, yet the inward man (soul) is renewed day by day.*"

Jonah 2:7, "*When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord.*"

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The glorious news to you is that God gave His Son to save you. Have you accepted Him?

John 3:16, 17, "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*"

Without Jesus Christ, your never-ending trip through eternity will be eternal doom, despair and punishment for not accepting Him, (Jesus), as your personal Saviour.

Ps. 9:17, "*The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*"

If you have not accepted Him, **YOU CAN NOW.**

John 6:37, "*Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*"

2 Peter 3:9, "*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*"

Rom. 10:13, "*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*"

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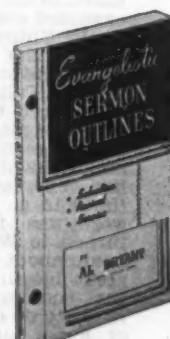
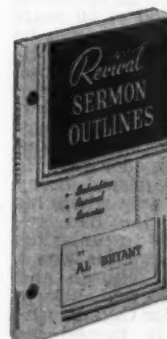
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RUSHING

Brother Dan Rushing, of Starkville, Mississippi, went to his reward on January 4, 1957. Brother Rushing was 59 years old and had been a member of the Church of God since 1916. He was widely known throughout north Mississippi and was highly appreciated by both the ministers and laymen of the Church. Many of our ministers who pioneered the work of the Church in the State of Mississippi found a welcome in the home of Brother and Sister Rushing. He was active in church work until a few weeks before his death. His greatest joy seemed to come while singing and testifying for the Lord. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Eva Mae Rushing; 6 sons, one of whom is the Reverend Hal B. Rushing, pastor of the South Shady Grove Church of God in Magee, Mississippi; also 3 daughters and a host of relatives and friends. The funeral was conducted by his pastor, the Reverend J. J. Nolan, assisted by W. E. Roberts. The body was laid to rest in William Spring Cemetery near Stewart, Mississippi.

—W. E. Roberts

FAILS

On April 19, 1957, during the preaching service, the Lord promoted our dear brother, Reverend James E. Fails, from his untiring service of over 30 years. Brother Fails was born in 1881. He was saved at the age of 12. His ministry extended over a period of 30 years in the Church of God. Although he was on the retired list he was always active for God and His cause. Brother Fails was feeling fine when he entered the church service, but while he was listening to the sermon the summons came for him and suddenly he slipped away. He had expressed his desire many times to go in that way when his work was finished. He had returned to Warrentonville to make his home about 2 years ago. He was a great blessing to the church and the community. He was always ready to do his best for God. Brother Fails had recently passed his 75th birthday. His life was full not only in years but also in deeds of love and service. He leaves to

mourn his departure a faithful, loving wife and daughter, and a host of relatives and friends. We know that our loss is heaven's gain and that we shall see our dear brother again. The large floral offering expressed the high esteem which the people had for him. The funeral was conducted by his pastor, Brother C. E. McAbee, assisted by Brother Silas Meeks, Brother Donald Wiggins and Brother H. L. Driggers. His body was laid to rest in the cemetery at Perry, South Carolina, to await the resurrection morning.

—Mrs. Silas Meeks, reporter

RUSSELL

Rev. Austin Russell, of Trafford, Alabama, died September 15, 1956. He was an exhorter in the Church of God.

—John L. Byrd
Overseer of Alabama

CASTEEL

Julius S. Casteel departed this life at the age of 80 years, 8 months and 11 days. He is survived by his wife, Clara Casteel, 2 sons, and 3 daughters. He was a member of the Shelbyville Church of God. He will be greatly missed by his pastor, and the members of the church.

—Rev. W. F. Smith, pastor

CULPEPPER

Rev. E. B. Culpepper, of Augusta, Georgia, died in April, 1957. He was an ordained minister in the Church of God.

—W. E. Johnson
Overseer of Georgia

PHILLIPS

Mrs. Maude Phillips, age 79, passed away to be with Jesus on March 30, 1957. She was a faithful member of the Church of God at Odum, Georgia. She joined the Church of God in 1921, having received the Holy Ghost that same year. She has been a faithful member since that time. She attended

every Assembly and camp meeting until the last few years. Sister Phillips was loved by all who knew her. The Church of God at Odum has lost one of its best members. We all loved and appreciated her so much, but we feel that our loss is heaven's gain. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend G. M. Williams, the Reverend M. B. Norris, and the Reverend Roy Harris.

—Mrs. J. O. Roberson, clerk

PRINCE

On February 28, 1957, the Lord took our darling Jeannie to be with Him after her suffering from polio for one week in the Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, Texas. She was 9 years, 1 month, and 10 days old. Her funeral at the Mt. Vernon Church of God was conducted by the Reverend J. H. Walker, who was assisted by the Reverend H. N. Bridges and the Reverend J. T. Gilliam.

She sang so sweetly in church and was a blessing to all who knew her. Oh, how we miss her, but we are anxiously waiting the day when we will be together again in that beautiful city of God.

Her parents,
Rev. and Mrs. Charles E. Prince
Pastor, Mt. Vernon, Texas

LANGLEY

The Reverend George Langley departed this life to be with the Lord on March 19, 1957. He was 73 years old. The Church of God at Bridgeton, New Jersey, along with his family and the community in which he lived, mourn his passing. It took from our midst one of our most loved members and friends. Brother Langley was loved by all who knew him, and he was a devoted church worker. His church was always first in his mind, and he was always first to do his part when called upon. As his pastor I felt when we laid him to rest that we had lost one of our dearest friends, and at the same time heaven was rejoicing because another weary pilgrim had arrived to live with them forever.

—Rev. W. G. Donovan, Pastor



testimonies

Path Grows Brighter After Seventy-one Years

ROANOKE, Ala. — My father died when I was seven years old. I had to work hard on the field and never had a school book bought for me. I had attended church a few times but no one had ever called my name in prayer or tried to get me saved. When I was ten years old I was in the field picking cotton when God spoke to my heart. I felt like a sinner lost away from God. I began to pray to God to move away the stone that was in my pathway and let my feet turn toward Him. I can't tell how Jesus made Himself known to me. I never knew that there was a Jesus until that day. That was a happy day when He kissed my tears away and I stepped into the lifeboat with Him. I had an altar in back of the field where I prayed when my heart would get heavy. I would pray until I was shouting happy. That was the only meeting that I went to, other than the few times I got to go to a church. Jesus was real to me.

In 1908 I was afflicted with a bad case of asthma and for years I had acute indigestion. The doctor said I could not live without an operation. My husband called the doctor every two weeks and I did not live a day without taking some kind of drug. I would vomit until the blood ran out of my mouth. I did not know anything about holiness or healing. I never had heard about it, but I had bought a 10c Testament. I read in that little Book about Paul sending out aprons and handkerchiefs to the sick and they were healed. One day after a long time of suffering, I went into the woods and prayed and there God met with me and healed my body. I went to the house and threw all of my medicine away. I want you to know that I am still healed today. When God speaks, it is done. When He commands, it stands. Ever since, I have been able to eat anything I want and just as much as I want. That suffering has never come back on me.

At that time I did not know that there was such a thing as the Holy Ghost. In 1911 I was alone

in my room praying and God sanctified me. I knew it was real. He cleaned me up from habits and worldly dress. In 1912 I was in my room praying again and I had never seen anyone receive the Holy Ghost. I had found the Holy Ghost meeting by this time and April 9, 1912, I received the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues. Then my heart was satisfied after many years of that awful hunger in my soul. He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. That secret place is alone in prayer with God. He has promised them a long life and joy and happiness. As I send in my testimony I am now 71 years of age and the path grows brighter as I travel along amidst the toils of this life. This hidden peace flows on my weary soul. No longer am I sad and alone. It will pay us to live alone with God in his presence of fullness and joy. The joy of the Lord is our strength. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

—Mrs. S. F. Bower

Comforted by Christian Love When Home Burns

NEW PORT NEWS, Va. — We never know how much people love until we are put to the test, but I am sure no greater love can be found than is in the Church of God. I think I can understand just a little what Jesus meant when He said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." On Wednesday morning, February 13, 1957 at 1:40 a.m. I called Brother J. D. Bright, Overseer of Virginia, and told him that my house was on fire and I would have to leave our prayer conference. I will never forget the words he said to me. He reminded me that Paul said in Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." No one will ever know what those words meant to me. I learned then what they meant. We had just received a phone call from Greensboro, North Carolina, that our daughter was very ill;

then the call came that our house was on fire. That is the first time in my life that I could look up and say, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh; blessed be the name of the Lord." When we got home some of our neighbors asked me what I was going to do. I said that the Lord would provide for His own. I had no idea just what God was already doing. I will never be able to thank the wonderful ministers and people of Virginia. Thanks to Brother Hunt from Valdese, North Carolina, for the gift from his good people. May God bless everyone is our prayer.

—J. G. Houck

Soldier Praises God for Salvation

NEW YORK, N. Y. — I thank God for His many blessings and good gifts that He blesses me with each day. Most of all I thank Him for the gift of His only Son, Jesus, who came to this world to seek and to save that which was lost and to shed His own precious blood for the souls of lost men and women. While attending the Church of God in Newport News, Virginia in 1950, I was saved on Thanksgiving eve night, and my wife was saved the next Sunday morning. About two months later we joined the great Church of God and my only regret is that I did not get saved and join the Church long before I did. I love my Church with all my heart and I do believe it is the Bible Church. My earnest desire is to serve God in the beauty of holiness all the days of my life, to be a soul-winner for Him and have sheaves to lay at my Master's feet when I meet Him face to face on that great day when He comes to earth to gather all of His children home. Pray that God will use me for His glory and let His light so shine in my life that others will see that great light of God and want and seek that great light for themselves. Remember to pray for my wife and two children who are in North Carolina. I would recommend the Church of God to all God's children who are looking for a good home church. You won't find any other church anywhere that is closer to the Bible. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good, and surely He is in the Church of God. I am a serviceman and have been in service for 14 years. At the present time I am in the United States Air Force stationed in Iceland. I have been here 2 months and have 10 more months to serve here before I can return to the States. We do not have any Church of God missionaries over here but there are some Assembly of God missionaries. Remember me in your prayers.

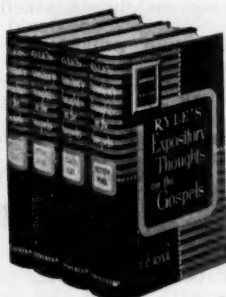
—S/SGT. Johnnie B. Harrell

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